

**VIRGINIA BOARD OF MEDICINE
AD HOC COMMITTEE ON LASER HAIR REMOVAL**

Friday, April 22, 2005

Department of Health Professions

Richmond, VA

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting of the Board convened at 1:15 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jane Piness, M.D., Chair
Suzanne Everhart, DO
Algin Garrett, MD
Max Dorian, JD
Zelda Dugger
Camille Haisley-Royster, MD
Susan Rosen, RN
Peter Vonu, MD
George Wilson, MD

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: William L. Harp, M.D., Executive Director
Ola Powers, Deputy Executive Director of Licensure
Elaine Yeatts, DHP Senior Policy Analyst
Colanthia Morton Opher, Recording Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT: Danielle Hatfield
Thomas Heffernan

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Ms. Rosen moved to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded and carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Harp advised the Committee members that the purpose of the Ad Hoc was to assess the modality of laser hair removal in Virginia and other jurisdictions and to determine if there was a need for law or regulations. Dr. Harp reviewed the definition of laser surgery as defined in §54.1-2400.01 and briefly discussed a number of models of delivery of laser hair removal services.

Dr. Wilson, a part owner and national medical director of SonaMedSpa, presented a PowerPoint overview of laser hair removal and touched on a number of issues including FDA regulations, OSHA regulations, training, certification of operators, safety, quality assurance, and how other states agencies regulate laser hair removal.

He pointed out that the first point of sale of laser equipment is the only sale monitored by the Federal government. Essentially anyone can obtain a laser in the aftermarket. Dr. Wilson provided statistics that demonstrated the overall safety of laser hair removal. He said the most common complication was hypo or hyperpigmentation, which usually resolves within six months of treatment.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

Danielle Hatfield, a Licensed Chiropractic Assistant from Maryland, has been doing laser hair removal since 1995 and has treated over 2000 patients with very few complications. Ms. Hatfield advised that she currently has a center in Maryland and is affiliated with a dermatologist that is located off site. She indicated that she reviews treatment plans with the dermatologist. Ms. Hatfield indicated that she was mostly self-taught and has endeavored to keep herself current with study. She agreed with Dr. Wilson's safety data and believed that with proper education and training, patient safety vis-à-vis an operator could be assured. Ms. Hatfield encouraged the committee to consider formal training, examination, state licensure and possibly on-site training to enhance patient safety, but not to limit the use of lasers to a physician or nurse practitioner.

The committee identified several issues for further inquiry, including an interpretation of the device laws from the Board of Pharmacy and the Attorney General's office, further clarification regarding lasers from the FDA, the status of the regulations in Texas, the positions of various medical organizations, and the status of laser technician licensing in other states.

Dr. Wilson asked the members to consider the physician on-site versus off site, licensed versus non-licensed aspects of the delivery of services, and also who should be authorized to operate a laser.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next meeting to be held: June 10, 2005

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business, the meeting adjourned at 3:21 p.m.

Jane E. Piness, MD
Chair

William L. Harp, M.D.
Executive Director

Colanthia Morton Opher
Recording Secretary